

—DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ... to help us dig deeper

We've been working our way through 2 Timothy in our study about the importance and authority of the Bible. Our message this week comes from 2 Timothy 2, but we'll also draw from other truths in 2 Timothy 3–4. Let's begin with a review/reminder regarding why we believe the Bible is trustworthy and true. Please look at each of the following references and notice how Paul describes/defines God's revelation to us.

1) 2 Timothy 1:13–14 2) 2 Timothy 2:15 3) 2 Timothy 3:16–17

—Please carefully observe/read 2 Timothy 2 and take time to note what Paul seems to be emphasizing throughout this chapter. The first thing he mentions is God's grace. Why is it important for us to draw strength and encouragement by recognizing the benefits and blessings we obtain because of God's grace to us? What's the difference between having an authentic sense of security based on God's grace and being overly confident to the point of pride in the fact that we're free from the penalty of sin? How does grace relate to humility?

—Now as we focus attention on 2 Timothy 2:2–17, here are some specific questions that relate to our personal application of God's Word to daily life. If the Christian life is supposed to be comfortable, why does Paul tell us about facing hardship?

—Are there times when we should enter into a lively discussion about biblical truth? What's the difference between discussing and arguing about truth? Why is it important that we stand up for biblical truth, but avoid getting into arguments?

—We've reached a point in our culture where many people dispute the idea that absolute truth exists. How does this influence/impact our capability to spread the Gospel?

—In our society we're both blessed and cursed by the amount of information available to us. How does this affect the amount of time we take to carefully study the Bible? Does this *help* or *hinder* us in our study? We also have more access to a variety of opinions about the Bible. Why is it still important for us to do personal study instead of simply relying on the thoughts/opinions of others?